Loans blocked in sick fertilizer units

282. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the amount of loan extended by domestic and foreign investments and other financial institutions which is blocked in sick fertilizer units in the country;

(b) if so, the amount of loan invested by banks and other financial institutions in these sick units during the year 1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98;

(c) whether the above institutions have received repayment of their loans as a result of decision of pending cases in regard to these sick units during the above years; and

(d) if so, the year-wise amount of the payment received during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) to (d) The folllowing central public sector fertilizer undertakings were declared sick by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) under the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985:—

1. Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. (FCI)
2. Hindustan Fertilizer Corpn. Ltd. (HFC)
3. Projects & Development India Ltd. (PDIL)

Out of these, FCI had taken loans aggregating Rs. 20 crore from Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) during the year 1989. An amount of Rs. 4 crore was repaid by FCI in February 1990. The balance laon of Rs. 16 crore together with accrued interest remains unpaid. There has been no decision of the BIFR in the case of FCI.

Revision of Forest Policy

283. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to revise country's Forest Policy;

(b) whether the new Forest Policy of the country has been drafted;

(c) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(d) the provisions made in the policy and steps taken by Government to save the country's valuable forest resources including wild life?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) Major steps taken for proper preservation of forests and forest wealth are:

(i) Afforestation programmes are undertaken by State Governments from their own resources as well as with financial assistance from Government of India.

(ii) Externally Aided Projects are being implemented for preservation of forests and forest wealth;

(iii) Guidelines have been issued to all the State Governments to involve village communities in protection and regeneration of degraded forests through Joint forest Management;

(iv) Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been enacted to regulate the diversion of forest lands;

(v) Hunting of wild animals included in Schedules I to IV of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, has been banned by law;

(vi) Special meausures for protection and conservation of tiger, elephants and rhinos and their habitat are being implemented;

(vii) A network of 447 wildlife sanctuaries and 84 National Parks covering 1,50,000 sq. km has been set up for conservation of wild flora and fauna. Financial Assistance is provided by the Central Government for development of national parks and sanctuaries on request from the State Governments.